

# Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's Portable Guides series provides practical information on investigating child abuse and neglect. Police officers and detectives will find the user-friendly format of the guides invaluable for quick on-the-job reference. The guides are also useful for social workers, physicians, nurses, emergency medical technicians, firefighters, psychologists, attorneys, judges—anyone on the frontlines of reporting, investigating, and prosecuting crimes against children.

Written by nationally recognized experts, the Portable Guides are designed to be both substantive and handy to consult. Each one addresses a specific topic. The series currently includes 13 titles:

- \* *Battered Child Syndrome: Investigating Physical Abuse and Homicide*
- \* *Burn Injuries in Child Abuse*
- \* *Child Neglect and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy*
- \* *Criminal Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse*
- \* *Diagnostic Imaging of Child Abuse*
- \* *Forming a Multidisciplinary Team To Investigate Child Abuse*
- \* *Interviewing Child Witnesses and Victims of Sexual Abuse*
- \* *Investigating Child Fatalities*
- \* *Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse*
- \* *Photodocumentation in the Investigation of Child Abuse*
- \* *Recognizing When a Child's Injury or Illness Is Caused by Abuse*
- \* *Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Child Sexual Abuse*
- \* *Use of Computers in the Sexual Exploitation of Children*

Each Portable Guide includes:

Key Facts



Checklists



Resources

**To Order:** Order online at [puborder.ncjrs.gov](http://puborder.ncjrs.gov).

**To Learn More:** You can view most of the Portable Guides online and search the OJJDP database for other publications on child abuse and neglect by visiting OJJDP's Web site at [www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp](http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/ojjdp) (click on "Publications").

See reverse side for contents summaries of individual Portable Guides. ►

# *Portable Guides to Investigating Child Abuse and Neglect*

## **Battered Child Syndrome: Investigating Physical Abuse and Homicide. (NCJ 161406)**

By Rob Parrish. Alerts investigators to signs of repeated beating and mistreatment — potential evidence for refuting claims that a child's current injury was accidental. Also discusses possibilities to be investigated when a child dies under suspicious circumstances but with no obvious sign of physical abuse.

## **Burn Injuries in Child Abuse. (NCJ 162424)**

By Philip J. Peltier, Gary Purdue, and Jack R. Shepherd. Focuses on methods for determining whether a child's burn injury was deliberately inflicted or accidental. Examines three types of burn injuries: spills/splashes, immersion, and contact with flames or hot solids.

## **Child Neglect and Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy. (NCJ 161841)**

By Donna Rosenberg. Explores the complex issue of child neglect, including the standard against which neglect is measured, ways that parents may not meet the standard, and types of evidence and records investigators should seek when neglect is suspected. Also discusses Munchausen syndrome by proxy, in which a parent fabricates a child's illness.

## **Criminal Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse. (NCJ 214371)**

By Richard L. Cage and Donna M. Pence. Describes techniques for conducting an investigation that will successfully support or disprove an accusation of child sexual abuse in a court of law. Addresses barriers that complicate such investigations. Offers guidance on interviewing the child, the suspect, and others, as well as gathering physical evidence.

## **Diagnostic Imaging of Child Abuse. (NCJ 161235)**

By Randell Alexander and Paul K. Kleinman. Summarizes advantages and disadvantages of various radiological imaging methods in documenting the occurrence of physical abuse. Explains medical terminology in lay terms. Also discusses shaken baby syndrome.

## **Forming a Multidisciplinary Team To Investigate Child Abuse. (NCJ 170020)**

By Mark Ells. Discusses the need for a multidisciplinary team approach to investigating child abuse and offers specific guidelines for forming a team, establishing protocols, and evaluating team performance.

## **Interviewing Child Witnesses and Victims of Sexual Abuse. (NCJ 214124)**

By Karen J. Saywitz and Kathleen Coulborn Faller. Describes and illustrates practical techniques for interviewing children to elicit useful, factual information. Addresses special considerations in cases where sexual abuse has been alleged.

## **Investigating Child Fatalities. (NCJ 209764)**

By Bill Walsh. Offers guidelines for investigating a case in which abuse or neglect may have caused or contributed to a child's fatal injury, documenting the case, interrogating suspects, and testifying in court. Includes checklists of potential witnesses and information sources.

## **Law Enforcement Response to Child Abuse. (NCJ 162425)**

By Bill Hammond, Kenneth Lanning, Wayne Promisel, Jack R. Shepherd, and Bill Walsh. Presents an overview of the role of law enforcement in responding to child abuse cases, with specific guidelines for each stage of a case. Emphasizes the importance of developing protocols for working with social workers, medical personnel, and other professionals in a multidisciplinary team.

## **Photodocumentation in the Investigation of Child Abuse. (NCJ 214123)**

By Lawrence R. Ricci and Brian S. Smistek. Describes equipment and methods that will help investigators obtain the best possible photographic evidence in child abuse cases. Includes guidelines for interacting with children.

## **Recognizing When a Child's Injury or Illness Is Caused by Abuse. (NCJ 214125)**

By Robert Hugh Farley and Robert M. Reece. Provides criteria for determining whether a child's injuries are the result of abuse. Topics include repetitive accidents, bruises, burns, poisoning, head injuries, eye injuries, internal injuries, and sudden infant death syndrome.

## **Sexually Transmitted Diseases and Child Sexual Abuse. (NCJ 160940)**

By Margaret R. Hammerschlag. Presents information to help investigators determine whether a child's infection was caused by sexual contact and whether the method used to diagnose a sexually transmitted disease was appropriate.

## **Use of Computers in the Sexual Exploitation of Children, 2d ed. (NCJ 214167)**

By Daniel S. Armagh and Nick L. Battaglia. Presents current information on how child predators use computers and provides guidelines for investigating child sexual exploitation cases involving computers. Emphasizes that mishandling computer equipment or using improper investigative techniques can result in the loss of valuable evidence. Outlines legal principles involved.